

City of Evansville
Park & Recreation Board Regular Meeting
Tuesday, December 21st, 2021, 6:00 p.m.

Park board will be held in person at City Hall located at 31 S Madison St on the third floor. To attend the meeting virtually please go to: meet.google.com/cke-iazy-twz or call: +1 567-236-0714 and enter pin: 228 747 609#

If you are attending virtually and not speaking, please mute your microphone or telephone to reduce background noise.

Copies of the packet and/or agenda are available at http://www.ci.evansville.wi.gov/city_government/public_agendas_minutes/park_board.php

MINUTES

1. Call to order by Chairperson Morrison at 6:02pm.
2. Roll call: Espinosa, Merrit, Morrison, Poock, Prudon. Absent: Fuson, Pfeil
Also in attendance Chad Renly, Jason Sergeant, Bill Hurtley, Carter Arndt and team, members of the public. Poock appointed secretary for the meeting in Fuson's absence.
3. Motion to approve the agenda made by Espinosa and seconded by Pudhon, passed on a voice vote.
4. Motion to waive the reading of the November 16th, 2021 minutes and approve them as printed made by Espinosa and seconded by Pudhon, passed on a voice vote.
5. Citizen appearances other than agenda items listed
 - A. Suggested by Jason Sergeant to move Mary Libby's presentation here from 9.A.iv. – Motion to change the agenda made by Poock and seconded by Prudhon, passed on a voice vote.
 - B. Mary Libby, address 16325 W Cain-Libby Rd, Evansville. See handout of her presentation, which she prepared and read for us, advocating for an indoor pool in Evansville, in coordination with the school district and/or Creekside Place. In addition to this information, Libby found out that, since September of 2020, 384 people with Evansville address have swum at the Oregon pool.
 - C. Sandi Spanton-Nelson, 7605 N Orchard View Dr – The public was not given a choice of an outdoor pool vs an indoor pool. Spanton-Nelson was a health and physical education teacher for EHS when the current high school was built. There was a referendum on an indoor pool, and it was voted down but always in the plan. Why are we not doing an indoor pool? So much of the electrical, building, rooms, etc are all needed at either an indoor or outdoor pool. The high school has much of this in place; it's there, including locker rooms and parking lot. This location would be close to all the schools. We could have swim lessons during PE. It would be a great opportunity. We should consider the plan from 2000 and

could save millions of dollars. Swim deaths are the #1 cause of death in children. We could have lessons for all!

- D. Mayor Bill Hurtley – The city went to the school twice and tried to work on an indoor pool. The school told the city “no.” We currently have a lot invested in a new outdoor pool.
- E. Spanton-Nelson – The school district has new administration.
- F. Mayor Bill Hurtley – But it is the school board that turned the city down. This would go to the school board and the district. The last attempt was shut down.
- G. Richard Krake, 120 Liberty Lane – Can we have time to convince the school board?
- H. Spanton-Nelson – There would be much cost savings possible if this was on school property next to the school building.
- I. Jason Sergeant – The city talked to the new district administration and they are not sure there are footings. Yes, the land is there.
- J. Spanton-Nelson – There are footings. The school will decide based on the community.
- K. Morrison – The school does a 5-year plan. The pool has not been included in the 5-year plans. The City Park and Rec board also does a 5-year plan, and an indoor pool has not been identified as a goal.
- L. Sergeant – Aquatics in the city has been rated as needs improvement.
- M. Morrison – The 5-year plan will be re-visited.
- N. Libby – The Evansville community opened their pockets for Creekside Place, with no public funds. We could raise the money privately.
- O. Morrison – Baker Street concluded in their survey that Evansville would have capacity to raise \$1.5-1.7 million for the current outdoor pool and park project. The public library campaign was a successfully fundraised event.
- P. Krake – What about the soccer fields? We could have more fields if the pool weren’t there.
- Q. Morrison – Let’s turn to Carter Arndt for the whole plan. We have space limitations for all. Costs are going up all the time. We are between a rock and a hard place.
- R. Matthew Poock – Ideally, we would do both an indoor and an outdoor pool. This doesn’t have to be one or the other. But if we say “no” to the plan for this outdoor pool, we will likely have no pool for many years.
- S. Lisa James, 7821 N South 5th St Evansville – Sharing a pool between the city and school has come up in the past. How well would it be shared? The school doesn’t share their fields often.
- T. Libby – Oregon and Stoughton share their facilities successfully between city and school.

- U. Morrison – This went to referendum and a new outdoor pool passed. This has all been difficult with Covid-19. It was not a perfect process, and it never is, but it passed.
- V. Tammy Pomplun, 440 S 2nd St – The pool went to referendum with the school, and Pomplun was a newspaper reporter at the time the high school was built. She learned about the psychology of a referendum. Saying “no” to the indoor pool helped the public say “yes” to the new school. It allowed for choice. We need to offer a real opportunity to say “yes” to an indoor pool.
- W. James – The pool passed, but not the maintenance, on that referendum in 2000. [Murmurs...no, it was the other way around, the maintenance passed but not the pool. Unclear and no final consensus on this.]
- X. Carter Arndt, MSA, and team – An indoor pool has not been their focus, but they can help by commenting on the matter. \$6.45 million is the current project cost for the pool (aquatics) out of \$10.8 million. The cost of an indoor pool would be \$9-\$14 million; \$9 million for a simple, 6-lane pool, and \$14 million for a family aquatic center like the outdoor pool will be. We are 5-8% into the process, with schematic and conceptual design. Now it is time to look at the budget and fit the project into the budget. We are on a sensitive timeline to break ground. We need some decision-making to stay on track to start this spring and finish spring 2023. We are still in planning and ready for the next step.
- Y. Libby – Highlighted the dollar figures in the packet. \$850,000 for a Splash pad. \$1.2 million for athletic fields (buildings and infrastructure are extra). \$570,000 for lazy river. \$790,000 for zero-depth entry. \$1.4 million for bathhouse.
- Z. Arndt – There are other expenses including roads and soft costs. The aquatics budget for the project is \$6.4-6.8 million.
- AA. Espinowa – The fear is if we do a splash pad only, the pool will be a distant memory. He likes having a Splash pad and no pool. He states the pool is costly, but we don’t want to lose the pool completely. What are the annual costs of an indoor pool, including heat, staff, and maintenance?
- BB. Matt Freeby, with MSA team – Give me a couple days to estimate accurately.
- CC. Morrison – Baker Street said operating costs for an indoor pool would be 5 times the current operation cost of an outdoor pool.
- DD. Freeby – That’s low. It would be more than that, especially considering the cost to heat the building.
- EE. Krake – Have we considered solar energy? The high school has geothermal energy to help with heat. [Murmurs about the effectiveness of the school’s geothermal energy and the ability to add onto that system without stressing it.]
- FF. Chad Renly – There would still be large up-front costs with alternate energy.
- GG. Arndt – Drew our attention to the West Side Park Concepts, showing multi-use park space. He showed the referendum plan, which focused more on baseball than soccer. He showed the new plan, which shifted attention to two full soccer fields, per community comment. This keeps current soccer fields in tact and opens up new green space. This has multi-use concessions area.

- HH. James -The Soccer Club appreciates not losing current fields. They respect the need for new baseball and softball fields. The Club couldn't have less than those two full-size fields. They use them spring and fall with close to 300 kids in the Club. They need lots of field time. The Club helps care for those fields, too. We have a solid high school soccer program that needs a good club.
- II. Morrison – She has been here since the Club began. Note that soccer is a club, and baseball and softball are city sponsored sports.
- JJ. Cari Slater, non-resident, with the Soccer Club – The Soccer Club is concerned about losing two undeveloped practice fields.
- KK. Hurtley – The city has 10 acres of field south of Maple Hill Cemetery. It is pretty flat and recently mowed, mostly grass. There will be an issue of having them as permanent fields, but they can be used for now. The cemetery will need to expand, either in the front or the back. But in the short term, this will work. One thing to say: “we have a difficult position, trying to make everyone happy.” We need to balance needs and concerns. Everybody needs to give a little. The city, PRB, and Council know we need these things.
- LL. Slater – Raised a question of the timeline. Do we lose those practice fields this spring, 2022?
- MM. There is parking out there, too.
- NN. Ray Anderson – The cemetery field is flatter than the Westside practice fields. (Are there potholes?) It would not be game field quality. There is clover and alfalfa. But as a practice space, it is ready.
- OO. Arndt – The two current game fields can mostly stay usable, but they will be out of use for “a season.” [How long?]
- PP. Ross Rettler, with MSA team – It is possible to just leave them alone. They are not properly graded, though. Infrastructure upgrades take a full year; they need time to be established. They may be ready one year later. It is a full year process, but you get a high-quality field.
- QQ. Slater – The Soccer Club could plan for no home games, if they knew.
- RR. Arndt – We could leave the field alone, or we could do significant upgrades; it is not yet determined. We could try to upgrade the fields in phases, but there is cost savings if we do it all together.
- SS. Espinosa – Could we play soccer at the Jay's field?
- TT. Anderson – For one year, that is possible. The Jays play May to August.
- UU. Leah Hurtley, deputy clerk – Spoke about scheduling conflicts. Coaches and sports leaders attend an annual organizer meeting in January, all together. They all work together. Leah can coordinate with everyone; she needs current soccer contact.
- VV. Morrison – That is a good meeting; she has attended. Morrison read the comment submitted by Troy Larson of Evansville Angels softball.

- WW. Sergeant – We need decisions by the end of this year to stay on timeline. We would break ground in May.
- XX. Arndt – This spring season of soccer could be unaffected. [Slater: Very helpful!]
- YY. Espinosa – The Soccer Board has met with him, and he feels the Club has been less than responsive. We need good contact and communication.
- ZZ. Arndt – We can hold off on soccer fields until June 15.
- AAA. Bill Lathrop – How much will a year delay affect cost?
- BBB. Arndt – Yes, it will definitely increase. Maybe 20% increase. The scope of project would drastically change, if the budget stayed the same.
- CCC. Lathrop – Inflation is a problem and factor.
- DDD. Sergeant – we will have to cut parts of the project or fundraise more if we delay.
- EEE. Krake – #1, it sounds like we are going to build the outdoor pool. #2, He’s lived here since 1966, and we have talked about an indoor pool since then. The idea was under the old high school gym floor. If we move to an indoor pool, we have more field space.
- FFF. Bill Hurtley – This is the issue: we have been working on this referendum for two years. Now people are unhappy. “I have zero faith in the school to work with us.” They told us “no.” We pass this tonight, and it goes to the council. We get bids in March and start in June. Where do we draw the line? If we wait a year, we won’t get half of what we want.
- GGG. Libby – Edgerton has both. [They have a large philanthropic foundation.] She has been tied up as a caregiver the last couple years.
- HHH. Bill Hurtley – We are trying to do the best thing we can for the city as a whole.
- III. Morrison called on board members to speak.
- JJJ. Prudhon – The process is in place. We are moving in a direction. He feels like we should proceed. Like Pastor Matt said, we can have an indoor pool, too, at Creekside or the school. Some people come here for the outdoor pool. “Subverting the plan would be ill advised.
- KKK. Sue Merritt – It’s hard to please everyone. With all the research and money spent already, we’ll move five steps back. Lots of towns have a pool. We need at least one. We should progress on the current path.
- LLL. Espinosa – Originally, we tried to renovate the current pool. We can’t. It’s cheaper to move the pool than rebuild at Lake Leota. An indoor pool makes good sense. We’ve gone around about the needs of the community. We have the best option to move forward.
- MMM. Pooch – He wants it all, an indoor and an outdoor pool. “Yes” to the outdoor pool does not mean “no” to an indoor pool. An indoor pool is still possible and would be several years down the road.

- NNN. Morrison – Are we ready for a motion? Is there further discussion?
- OOO. Espinosa – What motion do we need?
- PPP. Sergeant – To keep moving ahead.
- QQQ. Arndt – Reviewed the diagram again. The water slides will likely not be built now but they are in the master plan. The mini lazy river adds diversity in play. We kept the pool to six lanes, either at 7’6” or 7’3”. Two diving boards, one possibly a 3-meter board.
- RRR. Adam, with the MSA team – There will be one dedicated lap swim lane always. The diving boards can be parallel or perpendicular to the lap lanes. Option B could offer 2 lap lanes with the diving well. Option B is 7’3” lanes.
- SSS. Arndt – the slides are \$3/4 million and phased in later, likely not now.
- TTT. Poock – Watch the diving boards with starting blocks. [Yes.]
- UUU. Morrison – Two lap lanes with diving well seems like maximum use.
- VVV. Emmy Hurtley – What is the pool capacity? How many lifeguards?
- WWW. Matt, with MSA team – Plans for 561 total bathers; 6 guards on low census, 12 guards on high census. Current staffing is 6-7 guards. Current pool capacity is 404 total bathers. Our usership capacity will be growing.

6. New business: None

7. Park’s report: None

A. Lake Leota Dam Repair – (place holder)

Renly reported that Jewell and Associates will be submitting final plans and comment responses to the DNR for final approval. We still currently on track to go to bid in February.

B. 2021 creek walls & 2nd duck house (place holder)

Renly stated that Kendall was short a pallet of cap stone to finish the top of the wall and would need to wait till next spring to complete the last small section of the second duck pond. Ray mentioned that Kendall was still working on things that week since the weather was still fair.

8. Pool report: None

9. Old business

A. Park & pool design update

- i. General project and budget overview
- ii. West Side Park Concept Summaries from MSA
- iii. Aquatic Center Concept Summaries from MSA

- iv. Presentation from Mary Libby
- v. Other Comments
- vi. Park Board discussion and motion to accept Park Concept_____ and Aquatic Center Concept_____.
 - 1. Motion by Espinosa to accept the West Side concept plan of 12/13/21 and Aquatic Concept 3B and proceed. Second by Prudhon. Unanimous by roll call vote.
- vii. Morrison – Thanks to all citizens for their interest.

B. Adopt-A-Park Program (place holder)

- i. Dog Park adoption – A group consisting of a woman and her daughters is interested in adopting the dog park. It is not currently on the list. Pook said this is a great idea. We are bringing in 8 trees to the dog park. Chad will work with Leah to adopt the dog park.
- ii. Ray Anderson – Raquel Michel is donating two benches to the dog park, and he expressed gratitude.
- iii. EHS will make adopt-a-park signs for us.

10. Other: None

11. Meeting reminder:

- A. Regular meeting on January 18th, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.
 - i. Sue Merritt will be absent in January.

12. Motion to adjourn made by Espinosa at 8:15pm, seconded by Prudhon, approved on voice vote.